

1963-10-14

# Foreign service dispatches: Mozambique.

## LourencoMarques\_1963-10-14

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*Boston University*



## INCOMING TELEGRAM - (42) Department of State PERMANENT RECORD COPY

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Action

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Control: 10659

Rec'd: October 14, 1963

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

AF

FROM: Lourenco Marques

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 66, October 14, Noon

ACTION DEPARTMENT 66, INFORMATION LISBON 51 LOANDA UNNUMBERED.

On October 11 Roland Giffen, Resident Manager South African Railways confirmed 1928 Convention between South Africa and Portugal which permitted South Africa recruit up to 100,000 Mozambique natives annually in exchange importing 47.5 percent Transvaal requirements through Port Lourenco Marques has been terminated following required 6 months prior notification. Giffen said current traffic load now less than 40 percent will drop even more beginning October 16 when Transvaal Petroleum requirements will be shipped from Durban by railway. He estimates within 6 months South African use Lourenco Marques port will have been reduced by 50 percent.

In response my query whether termination agreement would prejudice South African recruitment Mozambique-African laborers Giffen said this immaterial to South Africa since there is no longer problem securing adequate labor. On contrary, closing down marginal mines will create surplus local Bantu in excess number previously recruited Mozambique. He said consideration had already been given closing out Witwatersrand Native Labor Association (WNLA) recruiting stations Mozambique which are costly operate. Labor procurement would then be done on voluntary basis with Mozambique job seekers making their own way border points where WNLA would set up induction centers from which those selected would be transported to mines. Giffen said this would result in substantial savings as had already happened case Tanganyika when labor contract with former colonial government terminated after independence. Actually number Tanganyikans working South Africa is now at all time high. Edward Piloher head WNLA Mozambique with

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Lourenco Marques 66  
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 (K) Pol 1 AFR-port  
 (K) E 5 1963



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-2- 66, October 14, Noon, From Lourenco Marques

Shomeeye recently made trip several WNLA stations, confirmed fact South African demand Bantu labor had dropped sharply past year. Expressed doubts as to how long present system with its heavy overhead would continue.

Comment: Forecast reduction South African use Lourenco Marques port will be serious blow provincial government which receives nearly half its income from port operations. Lessening South African dependency on Mozambique could have important impact their future economic-political relations with Portuguese territory particularly should GOP make sincere attempt seek accommodation its colonial policy with newly independent African states.

GP-4.

WRIGHT

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